



**TESTIMONY
JENN JENNINGS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CT PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 16, 2010**

The Connecticut Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors Association (CT-PHCC) supports the intent of SB-133, An Act Concerning the Apprentice to Journeymen Contractor Hiring Ratios.

We would like to thank Sen. Tom Colapietro for reaching out to union and non-union trade groups to develop a fair proposal that addresses inequities in the apprenticeship ratio for the plumbing, heating and cooling trades. We would also like to thank Rep. Jim Shapiro and the members of the committee for their support of this initiative.

It is our understanding that there is an agreement to make the numeric hiring ratio of apprentices to journeymen for plumbing, heating and cooling contractors consistent with the hiring ratio for the electrical and other trades and that the bill will be redrafted accordingly. Based on a review of factors such as the specific trade requirements and availability of skilled personnel, there is certainly no justification for having a different apprentice hiring ratio for plumbing, heating and cooling contractors and other trades.

This minor change in the law will give plumbing, heating and cooling contractors the ability to expand their businesses and provide more apprenticeship training opportunities for Connecticut's young people. Clearly this is a win-win, particularly during these challenging economic times. .

CT-PHCC is a not-for-profit trade association that represents the professional plumbing, heating and cooling contractors in the state of Connecticut. CT-PHCC and its members are committed to protecting the health and safety of the public. Contractors who belong to the association have demonstrated reliability and trustworthiness and are licensed by the state of Connecticut.